



N.U.T.S.

National Utah Token Society

Dedicated to the collecting, recording and preserving of Utah's historical medals, tokens, coins and bottles

President's Message



Hello Everyone,

Spring is just around the corner; soon the snow will be melting, temperatures rising and the days lasting longer. Get the metal detector out of the closet, remove the dust, do a couple of practice

runs on the living room floor. This will help you feel better for a couple more weeks.

I would like to thank our January guest speaker, Mr. Doug Nyholm for his fascinating presentation about counterfeit coins. We now know what to watch out for to make knowledgeable coin purchases.

This month we will be having our annual auction night. Please remember to email your 5 items list (seller, item, if a reserve amount) to James Staker several days prior to the meeting so we can get everything set up in advance. Bob Campbell has graciously accepted the auctioneer position. This will be a wonderful evening.

Because of a teaching commitment that evening I will be arriving late to the meeting so our vice president Anthony Bos will be conducting the first half of the meeting. I promise to bring some type of science demonstration. Thank you for your understanding and support.

I look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Todd Monson



N.U.T.S.



Todd's Demonstration



Eldon, Julie & Brooke

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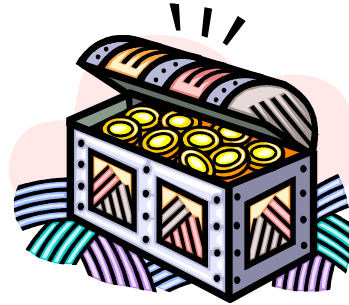
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Don't forget about the drawing we will
have lots of great prizes



Next Meeting is February
28th

**Please bring in
any Library books
that you have
checked out**

No finds of the month till
weather permits

Coming together is a beginning:
Keeping together is progress:
Working together is success
Henry Ford

Miscellaneous club news

**February meeting is the 28th at 7:00
PM @ Columbus Community Center
2530 So. 400 E.**



Officers for 2013

Ajax UTAH,

Ajax is a ghost town located in the Rush Valley area of southeastern Tooele County, Utah, USA. The town grew up around a unique department store started in 1869 by a Welsh immigrant named William Ajax. He operated the Ajax Underground Store until his death in 1899, and the settlement came to an end as the other residents left by 1900. All that remains today is a hole in the ground, with a historical marker standing nearby.

The area was first settled in 1863 by a group of Welsh farmers, who called their little settlement Centre for its location in the middle of the valley between Stockton and Vernon. As numerous mines were being developed in eastern Tooele County in the 1860s, small towns began to dot the region.

In 1869, William Ajax, whose department store business in Salt Lake City was failing, moved his family to a dugout in the Centre area. He had learned of the emerging market and started growing hay to sell to the mines. He built a two-room adobe house as a permanent shelter close to his hay fields. More accustomed to keeping a shop than raising a crop, Ajax soon began stocking the kitchen shelf with dry goods and supplies to sell to passing travelers. Business boomed by 1870 a post office was set up in his store, which had outgrown the Ajax home and needed its own location.

Underground department store

Having lived in an underground home, William Ajax chose to construct an underground store. He began digging into the desert soil and lining the hole with cedar timbers. When he had a chamber around 1800 square feet in area and 10-15 feet deep, he added roof beams and an earthen roof, with a south-facing skylight. The Ajax Underground Store was open for business.

From the beginning the store operated as much more than a mere general store, offering expensive textiles and fine imported tableware in addition to the necessities of frontier life. Local miners and ranchers could buy supplies to last through the winter, while their wives browsed through elegant cut crystal glassware and ornate figurines in comfort, protected from the harsh elements of the desert. The store became a gathering place for residents of such nearby communities as Mercur, Stockton, and Ophir, and an important stopping point for overland travelers. An above-ground hotel was soon added, with stables and corrals that could hold 100 horses, 300 cattle, and 6,000 sheep. As it began to grow into a town in its own right, the settlement was named Puckerville, but the name didn't stick. Although the post office kept the name of Centre, people called the place Ajax.

William soon found need for further expansion; he kept digging until the store's main room stretched 80 feet long and 100 feet wide. Additional branching rooms eventually brought the Ajax Underground Store to a total area of 11,000 square feet with over \$75,000 worth of merchandise in stock. It was reported that the "Big Store", as locals called it, did more business than any similar Salt Lake City emporium.

The store began to lose business when the railroad was built nearby and people could easily travel to Salt Lake for a variety of errands. When William Ajax died in 1899 he left the store to his sons, but the town of Ajax quickly dissolved. By 1900 only the Ajax family remained, continuing to run the store in the face of increasing competition. The rise of mail order catalogs was especially bad for business. The closure of Mercur in 1913 was the final blow; the Ajax Underground Store was finally forced to close in 1914. Most of the above-ground buildings were moved to other locations, but the underground store had to stay in place. In the 1920s it became a popular refuge for passing hoboes, but one of their fires burned it completely, leaving only a depression in the ground to mark the site of Ajax.

2013 N.U.T.S. MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NATIONAL UTAH TOKEN SOCIETY

2010 Meetings are on the 4th Thursday of the Month.
With August, November and December to be determined.

Meetings are at the Columbus Community Center
2531 South 400 East, South Salt Lake, Utah

Name (Please include all names for family membership)

Names

Address

EMAIL Address

Phone (Please include home and cell numbers AND AREA CODE)

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

Method of Payment

☐ \$12.00 SINGLE

☐ \$18.00 FAMILY

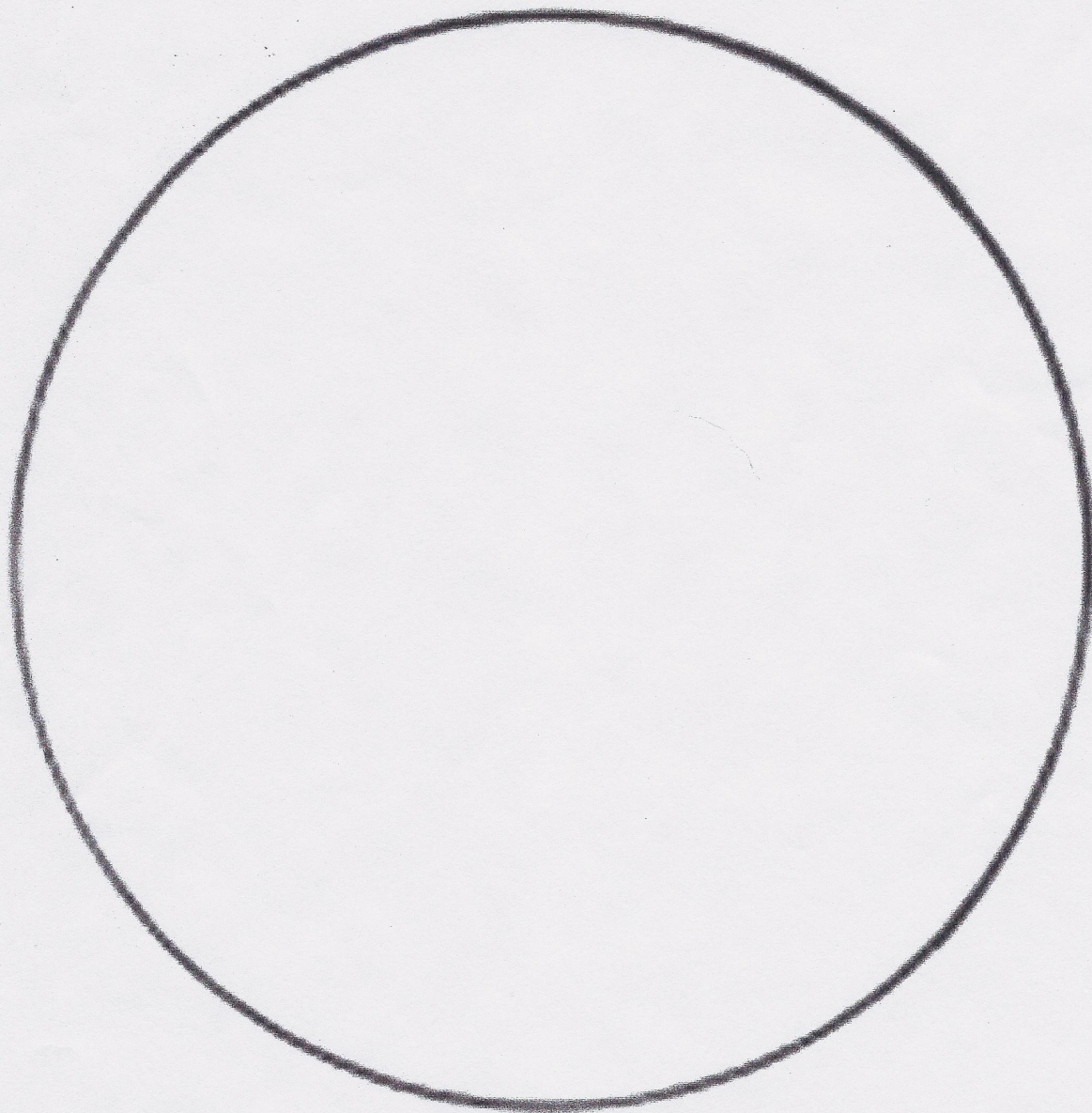
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Make Checks Payable to:
N.U.T.S.
P.O. Box 651071
Salt Lake City, Utah 84165

INTERESTS:

N.U.T.S. MEDAL DESIGN SUBMISSION



NUTS members it is time to submit your designs for the 2010 club medal. There is no specific theme required for the medal . Photographs may be used for a design as well as artwork. If a photo is used it needs to be sharp and clear with distinct lines. For example pictures of buildings work well. **Remember permission must be obtained to use copy written material.**

NAME _____

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January 2013



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